

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL - JOB SPECIFICATION/DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	REDD+ Project Manager
DIVISION:	Conservation Division Forests Programme
LOCATION:	Cambridge, UK or Dakar, Senegal or Nairobi, Kenya (with potential to explore flexible remote working)

1. OVERALL PURPOSE

Context

BirdLife International's Forests Programme supports national BirdLife Partners to deliver large-scale forest conservation and restoration, generating local and national economic benefits through biodiversity conservation, combating climate change and promoting sustainable development.

Carbon finance is an important mechanism to help address the deforestation crisis. Many sites where BirdLife Partners are working to conserve forest have high carbon finance potential. In these places, we aim to capitalize on opportunities to develop equitable, effective projects that generate carbon credits with direct benefits for climate, biodiversity and local people.

One such site is Tsitongambarika Forest, Madagascar, where the national BirdLife NGO Partner, Asity Madagascar, has been leading the implementation of a conservation programme for 18 years. This project is based on a unique governance partnership between communities, government and NGOs. Recently, the Government of Madagascar revised legislation and standard practice for carbon projects. This presents an opportunity for a new phase of forest conservation and development at Tsitongambarika, funded by the generation and sale of carbon credits under a REDD+ framework. Work to design and implement this project is now underway in collaboration with a committed corporate partner. This offers an exciting opportunity for developing the first REDD+ project under new the regulation and standards, and establishing high quality, innovative forest carbon credit generation at a site critically important for biodiversity and rural livelihoods.

Purpose

The REDD+ Project Manager will provide strategic coordination and thought leadership to support BirdLife Partners in their development of REDD+ projects. The role will have an initial focus in supporting BirdLife International and Asity Madagascar's REDD+ project development in the Tsitongambarika landscape. As the focal point for BirdLife's collaboration in the landscape, the role will guide the REDD+ project's development while enabling Asity's leadership in the project and organizational development.

Specifically, the role will:

1. Provide technical support to the design and development of BirdLife Partner REDD+ projects, with an initial focus on the Tsitongambarika Forest REDD+ project,
2. Support readiness strengthening for BirdLife Partners in relation to REDD+ projects, with an initial focus on Asity Madagascar as a growing national conservation NGO, and
3. Manage ongoing BirdLife International grants that support forest conservation and carbon project development at Tsitongambarika
4. Input to other forest conservation activities and initiatives in Madagascar and beyond, as part of the Forests Programme.

2. STAFF RELATIONSHIPS

REPORTING TO (LINE MANAGER):
Senior Forests Programme Manager
REPORTING TO JOB HOLDER (LINE MANAGED STAFF):
Consultants as needed on part-time and/or short-term basis

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PRINCIPAL OTHER STAFF RELATIONSHIPS/RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN SECRETARIAT:
<p>Staff throughout the Secretariat at the planning and senior management level, on matters relating to forest conservation, forest financing and project development.</p> <p>The postholder will work particularly closely with colleagues on the Forests and Climate Programme Coordination Teams in the global Conservation Division and Africa Regional Offices, and also with staff in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regions and Partnerships Division based in the Global and Africa offices, in relation to capacity building and institutional development, • The Influence Division, particularly the Biodiversity & Business and Policy teams, • Other teams in the Africa Regional Office linked to relevant BirdLife (including Partner) projects, • Operational Divisions such as Science, Partnership Development, Communications and Finance & Administration as needed to advance the project(s)
PRINCIPAL STAFF RELATIONSHIPS/RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN BIRDLIFE NETWORK:
<p>Close daily collaboration with Asity Madagascar on a wide range of project topics, including resource management, technical topics, stakeholder engagement and relationships, institutional strengthening, etc. This will be carried out through close and frequent liaison with Asity Madagascar’s Executive Director and REDD+ Project Executive and other staff, and in close coordination with the BirdLife Africa Regional Office.</p> <p>Other BirdLife Partners involved in forest conservation when requested</p>

3. KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Contact	Level (1-3)	Contact	Level (1-3)	Contact	Level (1-3)
BirdLife Network Organisation Staff	2	General Public	2	Institutional policy makers /Politicians/ Corporations	2
BirdLife Advisory Groups, Committees, Reg. Councils	2	Press & Media	2	Institutional Funders	2
BirdLife Global Council	1	Regulators/Legislators/ Auditors	1	Individual donors/ members	1
Suppliers/Service Providers	2	Scientific Community	2	Royalty/VIPs/ High worth Individuals	1
<p>Level of Contact</p> <p>1.= General Informing. "Appearance, first impressions". May have some independent outside exposure and contact, primarily informative.</p> <p>2.= Presenting/Representing/Reporting "Relationship management". Independent exposure representing BirdLife. Maintaining individual contacts. Usually managing information flow.</p> <p>3.= Justifying/Negotiating - "Influencing decision makers". Independent exposure as lead contact, representing Birdlife to highly influential people. Responsible for complex and sensitive/high risk communications.</p>					

4. MAIN DUTIES/WORK PROGRAMME RESPONSIBILITIES

By main work area:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide management and coordination for the design and development of BirdLife Partner REDD+ projects, with an initial focus on supporting the design and development of the Tsitongambarika REDD+ project in close collaboration with Asity Madagascar, to establish a high integrity project certified under Verra’s VCS and CCB Standards 2. Input to REDD+ project structuring, partnership arrangements and governance, and support negotiation of relevant legal and financial agreements

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3. Input to BirdLife knowledge base, policy and positions on forest carbon projects. Support BirdLife to apply experience from Tsitongambarika to develop and scale our portfolio of climate finance initiatives for forests
4. In relation to the Tsitongambarika landscape, the role will:
 - Act as a BirdLife focal point for in-country relationships with corporate partners, Government, other local stakeholders
 - Coordinate with standards and governance bodies, external technical and financial partners, consultants, and project developers and others, including administering the project's Verra Registry Account
 - Enable Asity Madagascar readiness for leadership of the REDD+ project through collaboration on key project components, advisory input, knowledge sharing, and implementing targeted activities to address identified capacity needs and organizational development goals
 - Manage ongoing BirdLife International grants contributing to conservation and REDD+ development in the landscape, including financial and thematic oversight and reporting, organization of steering committees, and donor relationship management
 - Coordinate BirdLife's communications on the Tsitongambarika and the REDD+ project, including development of a communication strategy in collaboration with project stakeholders

5. LIMITS OF AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESOURCES

RESPONSIBILITY AREA	LEVEL OF AUTHORITY
Financial/Budgetary	Delegated authority from Head of Division as needed to spend from project budgets.
Contracts – Funders	Delegated responsibility as needed to submit proposals and negotiate contracts.
Contracts – Staff/Consultants	Delegated responsibility to hire short term/project staff/consultants and recruit interns/volunteers (resource dependent).
Contracts – Service providers	May have delegated responsibility to negotiate contracts.
Legal Responsibility	May have delegated responsibility to negotiate funding contracts.

6. EDUCATION/SKILLS AND OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS	KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES
Minimum General Education	Undergraduate degree in a relevant subject (eg. Natural resource management, conservation, sustainable development, economics, international relations).
Job Specific Education/Qualification	Undergraduate degree in relevant subject, postgraduate desirable.
Job Specific Knowledge	Knowledge of forest and/or landscape conservation issues, and related funding mechanisms and trends.
Experience	The postholder should have significant experience in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale project/programme design and development, partnership management, contracting and reporting • Leadership of complex projects involving multiple stakeholders across various sectors, geographies, capacities, and cultural backgrounds • Implementing conservation or similar projects in low-income countries, with an in-depth understanding of the particular challenges of rural forest-edge communities, ideally with experience in Madagascar • Development or delivery of climate finance or carbon credit value chain projects, ideally with experience in REDD+ projects and carbon certification for VCS and CCBS and/or Plan Vivo or similar

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement in or with the private sector, corporates or financial institutions, on climate or forest-related issues • Working in collaboration with national NGOs and/or community organizations, including delivering multi-faceted organizational development • Managing applied conservation or sustainable land use projects on the ground, in particular tropical forests and/or protected areas
Management & organisational skills	<p>The postholder should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage large projects, contract management, planning, budgeting and reporting • Prioritize and be pragmatic, work under pressure, and meet deadlines • Adapt approaches to new information or contexts • Apply strong technical, analytical and statistical skills • Network and proactively engage with other organizations • Motivate and collaborate with others with cultural sensitivity
Communications skills	<p>The postholder should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively communicate complex processes and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences • Represent BirdLife to external audiences in a polished, professional manner • Contribute to scientific papers for peer-reviewed journals <p>The ability to communicate through creative storytelling and presentation will be a strong advantage</p>
Creativity & Initiative	<p>The postholder should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative, flexible, and respectful of others' knowledge and experience • Self-motivated, organized, and efficient, with the ability to learn by doing • A dynamic and creative problem solver
Computer Literacy	<p>The postholder should have experience in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using MS Office, managing e-mail and using the web • Learning new communications and collaboration technologies
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete fluency in English required • Working proficiency in spoken and written French essential, fluency an advantage
Travel requirements	Willingness to travel (up to 20% of time).
OTHER DESIRED/HELPFUL KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES	
n/a	

Prepared by:	Date:
Senior Forest Programme Manager	13 February 2023